



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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April 21, 1981

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

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M. Jean Castarede
Directeur du Cabinet du Ministre
9, Rue Georges Pitard
75015 Paris
France

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Dear M. Castarede:

I am happy to have the opportunity to send you something that I wrote sometime ago on the problems of technological progress. The part of the article to which I direct your attention is the Table at Page 611 where I attempted to make a systematic classification of the grievances that have been expressed about technological impact. I am not so much proud of this effort, which would bear a great deal of critical revision, as I would wish for an equally systematic discussion to have become part of the analysis of this problem in the years since 1972. If such an effort exists, it has not come to my attention.

You may recall my reference to the book by Raymond Aron, which appeared in English as "Progress and Disillusion - The Dialectics of Modern Society" (1968). I believe this remains an outstanding work in the field and I recommend it to your attention.

Perhaps the most radical commentary that remains still almost intelligible on these issues comes from J. R. Ravetz, "Scientific Knowledge and its Social Problems".

As you may imagine there has been a considerable literature on the side effects of the introduction of high technology into health care. Work like that of Illich can perhaps be dismissed as special pleading for a prior political position; but I believe it still remains important to understand the grievances that can motivate such extreme reactions.

M. Jean Castarede

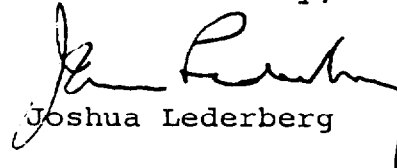
April 21, 1981

- 2 -

I trust you understand that my bringing up this sector of radical criticism is hardly my own identification with it!

Finally, I hope you will have seen the work by Marianne Frankenhäuser of the University of Stockholm for the Swedish government a few years ago.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg

Encl: Southern Calif. Law Rev.

Vol. 45, No. 2, 1972

"Freedom & the Control of Science" etc.